

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 12 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 12 has been added. There are no prior art rejections. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, thereby to pass all of the claims to allowance. No new matter has been added.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-9 and 12, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Serial No.: 10/620,970
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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